THIS MAN - CALLAN

Extracts from internal 'dockets' of a central London agency. Each marked: 'No copies. Delivery and return by nominated messenger only'. Classification: SECRET. Subject: CALLAN.

FROM HEAD OF SECTIONS (GROUP) TO COLONEL HUNTER:
Request from your section to use Callan. Callan de-activated 1966. Why re-activated now? Urgent. Advise at once.

FROM COLONEL HUNTER TO HEAD OF SECTIONS (GROUP)
Callan is best agent I ever had. He excelled at Red File material. He was de-activated because of over-involvement with his subjects. However, I now employ him only as a freelance. (He neither asks for nor expects assistance and/or recognition from my Section). I have instructed relevant departments to give you further background on Callan.

FROM APPOINTMENTS OFFICER TO HEAD OF SECTIONS (GROUP)
Callan was born in South London - 1931. Parents killed by V2 rocket in 1944. Callan found their bodies on way home from school. From then lived with aunt until he joined the Army. Aunt now deceased. Educated State schools including Technical College. Left school at 15 years of age. Worked as apprentice to firm of locksmiths, and continued to attend Technical courses. ARMY: Could have gone into Royal Engineers. Surprised employers by choosing Infantry - Rifle Brigade. Highest possible ratings for initiative; unarmed combat; shooting. Very high survival factor. Promoted Corporal. Reduced to ranks for insubordination to superior officer. Transferred to Commandos. Quickly re-promoted to Corporal. His unit very successful in catching and killing terrorists. Callan recommended for Distinguished Conduct Medal but involved in drunken brawl with infantry sergeant whom he beat up badly. Reduced to ranks. Medal withheld. Left Army in 1952.

Resumed work at locksmiths. Suddenly and inexplicably attempted to rob jeweller's safe supplied by his firm. Caught by accident. Old night-watchman stumbled on to him; grabbed him and yelled. Callan, who could have killed him, didn't, and was caught. Sentenced to two years imprisonment. Released after 15 months. (Here he first met the burglar known as 'Lonely'). HUNTER'S SECTION took him up on basis of (a) Commando record; (b) burgling skill. Went to our 'College' 1953-54. Further developed skills in theft, unarmed combat and shooting. Dead shot with pistol. First active with Hunter in 1955. Involved in black-mail and killing. Very high rating. From then until 1966 Callan carried out 19 missions, including 11 killings. 15 were complete success; 2 failed because of inadequate briefing; 2 because of failure of colleagues. Callan prefered to work alone. (This may have influenced attitude of colleagues.) Employed the burglar 'Lonely' for certain jobs.

By 1960 Callan was second-in-command to Hunter who rated him very highly. Very possibly next Head of Section. But in 1965 he killed an opposition spy whom he knew well, and liked. From that time Callan became too involved with the people who were his targets. Hd worked with the same skill, but increasing reluctance. Hunter tried hard to change him, but failed. ((cont))

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((APPOINTMENTS OFFICER ON CALLAN - continued.))

Callan de-activated from section in 1966. Trained as bookkeeper; works for wholesale grocer who believes him to be ex-convict. Callan is a non-smoker, drinks Scotch - cautiously on a job, heavily on certain other occasions. Never drunk.

Callan's replacement is Toby Meres. Age 27. Eton, and Coldstream Guards. Resigned commission after accident in which a guardsman died. Hunter knows that Meres killed him.

FROM COLONEL HUNTER TO HEAD OF SECTIONS (GROUP)
Attached is copy of report prepared by Executive Officer Meres on Callan:

I have run a check on Callan since he was de-activated from the section. In that time I have used six operatives, changing them as per procedure. Callan has spotted them all. It is very difficult to tail this man. Suggest we use operatives from another section. Callan's address is unchanged. He works as a bookeeper for a wholesale grocer called Waterman. Waterman is a boor but Callan seems adjusted to him. He works long hours for little money - which, as such, appears to have no interest for him (see my vic previous report on his coldwater apartment) except for the purchase of whisky. On occasions he drinks heavily, but I have not seen him drunk. He sticks absolutely to his de-activation cover story, drinking or not. His relations with women are casual but normal. He has not attempted to contact any other agency from either East or West, and his cover-appearance - that of a badly dressed, unambitious clerk with no hope of promotion, is completely convincing. We can forget about him.

FROM PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTANT TO HEAD OF SECTIONS (GROUP)
Callan is a very healthy young man with excellent reflexes, muscular co-ordination and eyesight. No major diseases, no serious accidents. I.Q. well above average. (Actual score withheld as is usual in this section). All tests showed him to be of very stable mentality. No evidence of inversion. Trend to sadism, but held in balance. High tolerance to pain which means that if at any time he were broken, the effect would be total. (N.B. For this reason Callan was given special instruction on the use of cyanide phial in certain circumstances.). At the age of 13 he found his mother and father dead under particularly brutal cicumstances, but this if anything intensified his drive to success (I.E. power) and solitary self-sufficiency. Power and self-sufficiency have been and are the two motivating factors in Callan's life. It is for this reason that he has deliberately cultivated both physical and mental courage, and the skills (Karate, pistol shooting etc.) accompanying them. After the loss of his parents the one person whom he appears to have held in high emotional reagrd is Hunter. Callan now dislikes Hunter. This dislike, under certain circumstances, could turn to hatred. ((cont.))

((PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTANT ON CALLAN - continued))

The flaw - if one may so express it - in Callan's nature is his capacity for involvement with other people. This, though limited, is intense. i.e. Callan will never allow himself to rely on other people, but will go to extreme lengths to project those who rely on him. (See my report on his relationship with the petty criminal Lonely). This condition has now reached the point where he is no longer amenable to orders but insists on making his own value judgments. It is for these reasons that, despite his obvious abilities, I recommend Callan's withdrawal from the section. He has almost no conception of the abstract word "duty"; a limited but demanding human relationship is the only moral stimulus to which he will respond, and this state of affairs has intensified since in 1965, on Hunter's orders, he killed the Russian agent (name withheld) whom he liked very much. It will be recalled that Hunter had to order him three times to do so.

Finally, and however irrelevantly, may I say this: I like Callan.

FROM HEAD OF SECTIONS (GROUP) TO COLONEL HUNTER
Callan's background noted and acknowledged. How do you propose to control him if not under section discipline?

FROM COLONEL HUNTER TO HEAD OF SECTIONS (GROUP)
Callan has a Red File - i.e. he is marked for death because of over-familiarity with aims and methods of my section. The file will remain dormant only so long as he obeys my instructions.

FROM HEAD OF SECTIONS (GROUP) TO COLONEL HUNTER
Agreed. But Callan will be your personal responsibility. You will act as his controller at all times.

All this classified 'SECRET' correspondence was taking place unknown to Callan while he worked at his monotonous job in the warehouse. Doing his best to forget the past. But people like Callan are more precious than gold to people like Hunter. And Hunter needed Callan. It was by blackmail that he succeeded and Callan (white-hot) with anger) was forced back into service - to the great pleasure of a great British viewing public. The series was never out of the national popularity charts and Callan became a byword in everyday life.

Iron-hard and cool he may be, but Callan's sense of right and wrong is acute. He is merciless when the situation demands and, at the other extreme, he will place himself in danger (both from his 'employers' and/or the 'opposition') sooner than allow any form of injustice to take place.

EDWARD WOODWARD's portrayal of Callan has been described as "one of the finest characterisations ever to hit British Television ..... a constantly superlative performance .... he brings his art as a member of the National Theatre Company right into our homes and into our hearts". To date, 21 episodes of Callan have been produced and in each there is a different cast of distinguished guest artistes and supporting players. And now THAMES TELEVISION are about to produce a future series of CALLAN. Nine e isodes in colour.

'C A L L A N L I V E S!'

At the end of the second series of this top-rating programme, Callan was shot-up badly and apparently left for dead. Immediately, outdoor walls throughout Britain were painted with the slogan "CALLAN LIVES!" Automobile windshields carried the same home-printed message. The 'Callan Cult' climaxed. The 'phone calls and letters increased. It was obvious that millions of viewers wanted Callan back - alive and soon.

Always conscious of what the Public want, THAMES (who 'released' PUBLIC EYE's Frank Marker from jail early so that a new series could be made at public demand) are bringing back CALLAN early in 1970 - in colour. Production of the nine hour-long episodes starts at Thames' Teddington Studios at the beginning of December, 1969.

EDWARD WOODWARD will again star in the name part, and RUSSELL HUNTER will also return as Callan's ex-burglar friend 'Lonely'.

Producer REGINALD COLLIN said: "Callan will continue to be a straightforward series. We are resisting all temptations to become 'Bondish' - for example there will be, as before absolutely no background music. Callan will still be involved in violent situations, but the violence will not be dwelt on or exploited. The series as a whole will be less violent rather than more so."

EDWARD WOODWARD is a member of the National Theatre Company who have been very co-operative in making him available for 'CALLAN'. JAMES MITCHELL, who created CALLAN, will write four of the nine new episodes. The Story Editor is GEORGE MARKSTEIN.

((ENDS))

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